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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING POXVIRUS INFECTION

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods of treating a poxvirus infection, e.g., a vaccinia virus or a variola virus infection; and methods of reducing viral load, or reducing the time to viral clearance, or reducing morbidity or mortality in the clinical outcomes, in patients suffering from a poxviral infection. The present invention further provides methods of reducing the risk that an individual will develop a pathological poxvirus infection, such as a vaccinia virus infection or a variola virus infection, that has clinical sequelae. The methods generally involve administering a therapeutically effective amount of a Type I or Type III interferon receptor agonist and/or a Type II interferon receptor agonist for the treatment of a pox viral infection.